

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A display system, comprising:
a support surface;
a source of light located proximate to the support surface;
a microdisplay located proximate to the support surface; and
a reflector located above the support surface and spaced apart from the support surface in position to reflect the light from the source of light to eventually illuminate the microdisplay;
wherein the source of light includes one or more LEDs.

11. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the reflector is substantially planar.

12. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the reflector is curved.

13. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the reflector is a beam splitter.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A display system as defined in claim 13,~~ A display system,
comprising:
a support surface;
a source of light located proximate to the support surface;
a microdisplay located proximate to the support surface; and
a reflector located above the support surface and spaced apart from the support surface in position to reflect the light from the source of light to eventually illuminate the microdisplay,
wherein the beam splitter is a polarizing beam splitter.

15. (Currently Amended) A display system, comprising:

a support surface;
a source of light located proximate to the support surface;
a microdisplay located proximate to the support surface; and
a reflector located above the support surface in position to reflect the light from the source of light to eventually illuminate the microdisplay;
wherein the display system generates a color image via the single microdisplay ~~the reflector is a polarizing holographic beam splitter.~~

16. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay.

17. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, further including optical elements positioned in a light path above the microdisplay, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay, wherein the optical elements are receptive of light reflected from the microdisplay, the optical elements directing the reflected light for viewing, and further wherein the reflector is positioned in the light path between the microdisplay and the optical elements.

18. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein each of the light source and the microdisplay have a primary optical axis, and further wherein these optical axes intersect with one another.

19. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 10, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective liquid crystal spatial light modulator.

20. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 19, wherein the spatial light modulator is pixellated.

21. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 19, wherein the spatial light modulator uses ferroelectric liquid crystals.

22. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 13, wherein the beam

splitter is optically disposed between both the light source and the spatial light modulator and between the spatial light modulator and a source imaging area, the beam splitter directing light from the light source to the spatial light modulator and from the spatial light modulator to the source imaging area.

23-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A display system, comprising:

a microdisplay that lies substantially in a plane, the microdisplay having an image generating area that is no larger than 6 millimeters on a side;

a source of light located proximate to the plane, the source being oriented to direct light up and away from the plane; and

an optical element located above the plane in position to direct the light from the source of light toward the microdisplay, the optical element being substantially further away from the microdisplay than is the source of light, wherein the optical element includes a reflector, wherein the reflector is a beam splitter.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A display system as defined in claim 26, wherein the beam splitter~~ A display system, comprising:

a microdisplay that lies substantially in a plane;

a source of light located proximate to the plane, the source being oriented to direct light up and away from the plane; and

an optical element located above the plane in position to direct the light from the source of light toward the microdisplay, the optical element being substantially further away from the microdisplay than is the source of light, wherein the optical element includes a reflector, wherein the reflector is a polarizing beam splitter.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A display system as defined in claim 26, wherein the beam splitter~~ A display system, comprising:

a microdisplay that lies substantially in a plane;

a source of light located proximate to the plane, the source being oriented to direct light

up and away from the plane; and

an optical element located above the plane in position to direct the light from the source of light toward the microdisplay, the optical element being substantially further away from the microdisplay than is the source of light, wherein the optical element includes a reflector, wherein the reflector is a holographic beam splitter.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:

a microdisplay that lies substantially in a plane;

a source of light located proximate to the plane, the source being oriented to direct light up and away from the plane; and

an optical element located above the plane in position to direct the light from the source of light toward the microdisplay, the optical element being substantially further away from the microdisplay than is the source of light;

wherein each of the light source and the microdisplay have a primary optical axis, and further wherein these optical axes intersect with one another.

32. (Currently Amended) A display system as defined in claim 39, comprising:

~~a microdisplay that lies substantially in a plane;~~

~~a source of light located proximate to the plane, the source being oriented to direct light up and away from the plane; and~~

~~an optical element located above the plane in position to direct the light from the source of light toward the microdisplay, the optical element being substantially further away from the microdisplay than is the source of light;~~

wherein the ~~microdisplay is~~ one or more microdisplays are each a reflective liquid crystal spatial light modulator.

33. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 32, wherein the spatial light modulator is pixellated.

34. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 32, wherein the spatial light modulator uses ferroelectric liquid crystals.

35. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 26, wherein the beam splitter is optically disposed between both the light source and the spatial light modulator and between the spatial light modulator and a source imaging area, the beam splitter directing light from the light source to the spatial light modulator and from the spatial light modulator to the source imaging area.

36. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:
a microdisplay that generates an image thereon having a lateral extent;
a source of light located within a distance of the microdisplay, the distance being less than the lateral extent of the generated image on the microdisplay; and
a reflector spaced apart from the microdisplay in position to reflect the light from the source of light to eventually illuminate the microdisplay.

37. (Currently Amended) A display system, comprising:
[a] at least one microdisplay;
a source of light located proximate to the at least one microdisplay; and
a reflector spaced apart from the at least one microdisplay in position to reflect the light from the source of light to eventually illuminate the at least one microdisplay;
wherein the source of light is closer to all of the at least one microdisplays in the display system ~~microdisplay~~ than to the reflector.

38. (Previously Presented) A display system, comprising:
a reflective microdisplay that generates an image thereon having a lateral extent; and
a source of light located within a distance of the microdisplay, the distance being less than the lateral extent of the generated image on the microdisplay;
wherein light from the source of light is eventually directed toward the microdisplay.

39. (Currently Amended) A display system, comprising:

~~a microdisplay that lies~~ one or more microdisplays, wherein all of the microdisplays in the display system lie substantially in a single plane;

a source of light located proximate to the plane, the source being oriented to direct light up and away from the plane; and

an optical element located above the plane in position to direct the light from the source of light toward the one or more microdisplays ~~microdisplay~~, the optical element being substantially further away from the ~~microdisplay~~ one or more microdisplays than is the source of light.

40. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 39, wherein the optical element includes a reflector.

41. (Previously Presented) A display system as defined in claim 40, wherein the reflector is curved.

42. (Currently Amended) A display system as defined in claim 39, wherein ~~the microdisplay~~ each of the one or more microdisplays is a reflective microdisplay.

43. (Currently Amended) A display system as defined in claim ~~[[24]]~~ 36, further including optical elements positioned in a light path above the microdisplay, wherein the microdisplay is a reflective microdisplay, wherein the optical elements are receptive of light reflected from the microdisplay, the optical elements directing the reflected light for viewing, and further wherein the reflector is positioned in the light path between the microdisplay and the optical elements.